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The President's Promptness.

A salutary thing about this Mexican business is that this government is moving promptly for whatever may be required of it. It is not in a state of incoherence. Neither the Mexican authorities nor the insurgents are left in doubt about our desire for peace in Mexico, or our willingness to help promote it, by force if necessary. President Taft has not dawdled. The existing trouble is not of long standing, and on that account a mere demonstration on the border may be sufficient. At any rate, all will hope so.

The Cuban business will be recalled by many. Dawdling on the part of this government under the administration of the late President was a serious matter. The insurance was two years old when Mr. McKinley took office—old enough to have been considered as accomplished a soldier as Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, who as consul general to Havana had been observing matters at close range, that Spain by the methods she was using could not put it down. He had so reported to his superiors, but without effect.

Spaniards and Cubans alike, therefore, asked themselves the question: "What will the new man do?" And the people of this country, who had come to take a keen interest in the contest, were quite as curious.

The Spanish government at Madrid was advised by its representative at this capital, who, in a measure, was advised by a few Americans in his pay. Senor de Lome, in a personal letter which probably reached views he had expressed in his official correspondence, described the new President as a spineless politician, who was playing fast and loose with his countrymen, and would continue the American policy of observation and inactivity.

The result we all know, and equally do know that if this government had taken its stand as soon as the real situation in Cuba became plain to trained American observers on the scene, Spain and Cuba both would have profited by our efforts for peace, without the landing of a single American soldier on Cuban soil.

Was the dawdling by this government during the first two years of the Cuban insurrection that encouraged Spain to believe that no other American policy was possible, and that she might proceed in the island in her own way? Mexico, if we were to cross the border, would be a much bigger and more difficult proposition than Cuba. Probably no American statesman or soldier would undertake our task. The size of the country, the character of the people, and the nature of the controversy, taken in conjunction, are formidable. But indifference, would add to this. Formidable as the task now would be, it would be much more so twelve months hence, if meanwhile disorder continued and the conviction became established that the matter was "none of America's business," and that America would under no circumstances put in her ear.

It is hoped that various flurries in international matters will subside sufficiently to enable Congress to give the undivided attention that is asked for Canadian reciprocity.

Even if some of Mr. Brandeis' tips on how to save money are utilized, it is not likely that he will be given much credit for them.

Mr. Carnegie's dove of peace, in order to meet present conditions, should make a southward flight and learn to coo in Spanish.

Sometimes the price of a big diamond fluctuates more surprisingly than that of certain mining stocks.

In addition to the troops, there is an army of camera experts traveling to the southwest.

The District's Small Share.

The record of local legislation printed in The Star Wednesday is the smallest within recent recollection of the work of Congress as the District's legislature. Outside of the appropriation bill not a single measure of importance was put through both houses. There were a few private measures, affecting individuals and small corporations, and one or two street extension acts, but beyond them the houses did virtually nothing for the District.

Comparing the list of meritorious measures that failed during the session with the record of accomplishments it is evident that the House and Senate regarded the District as of no importance whatever. Is this true? Do the people of the United States consider the District of Columbia as unworthy of attention? Is there no general interest in Washington, the capital? Is there no desire outside of the bounds of what remains of the "peninsula-square" to see the federal city develop into an ideal municipality?

Judging from the numbers visiting here every year, these questions must be answered in the negative. Probably no other city in the United States is sought by as large a number of travelers for its own sake as Washington. This is solely because it is the seat of government, because here is centered the federal activity, here is done the work of administration, and here are to be seen the men who are identified with the national management. Thousands come here for these reasons, to see the public buildings and to gain a first-hand concept of the appearance and significance of Washington, and these thousands are merely representative of a keen and general interest on the part of the multitude of citizens in Washington, the nation's city.

Washington is not a negligible quantity in Congress. It is not possible perennially to ignore its needs. The United States is in record in a statute which guarantees an equal bearing of the financial

burden of its maintenance and its development. The Constitution specifically vests in Congress the exclusive jurisdiction over the capital. A continued neglect of this charge would be resented by the people of the states, who are contributors to the upkeep of the District on equal terms with those who reside within it.

Congress should feel humiliated when it reflects upon the sorry showing of attention to local necessities presented by the record just closed. There is no occasion for gratification in the proof which the docket contains that Congress turned its back during the past session upon practically every proposition advanced for the general welfare of the District. A few members may regard this meager list of accomplishments with smug pride, feeling that whatever the District wants must necessarily be improper. Such a spirit will not carry far in any line, and it is especially restricting in public affairs.

The safeguards against improper local legislation are reliable, and there is no need for extraordinary efforts to block the way by those who approach their work as local legislators are skeptics.

Perhaps the day will come when at the close of the session those responsible for performances of the year will point with pride to what has been done for the District rather than what has been done for the nation. That some day the truth will dawn upon the legislative mind that Washington is not a local proposition, but a national, and that the American people expect it to be treated with respect and consideration.

Democrats and Economy.

It is the usual thing for the ranking member of the minority in the House to propose a committee to call attention at the close of each session to the extravagance of the majority in the allotting of the public money. No representative in such a position would regard his year's work as complete without thus utilizing the sociability of the party in power and proclaiming the superior ability of the opposition to manage the country's finances.

Mr. Livingston, who unfortunately retired from Congress for the lack of appreciation at home for his undoubted talents as a legislator, comes forward with the customary claim that the republican appropriation work has been lavish and wasteful and that the democrats will do much better by the taxpayers when they get a chance. Their chance is to have the country start the appropriations work in the House, and next winter the test of their performance will come.

Rarely does an opposition member to effect anything like as great a retrenchment as it advertises in advance. It sees the trifling from the minority viewpoint, and out of proportion. The lack of responsibility deprives it of a keen sense of measurement. It serves a good purpose as a check upon extravagance, and when in time it becomes the majority and the erstwhile majority drops back into second place the latter takes up the role of critic and is ready to declare that extravagance is rampant.

The truth is, there is no use trying to run the United States parsimoniously. The annual expenses could be cut down perhaps by 20 to 40 per cent, but at a tremendous sacrifice. Pensions might be cut off entirely, saving an enormous sum, but deeply shocking the country. All military expenditures might be whittled down to a minimum, leaving the United States in a condition inviting attack from abroad and exposing it to internal turmoil. The departmental service might be trimmed to meager allowances, low though the present pay scale is, and the government would suffer the certain consequences of cheapened administration.

The Panama canal work might be abandoned. The improvement of rivers and harbors might be suspended. The reclamation work might be stopped. All public building work might be dropped. All works in behalf of the public health might be curtailed. Appropriations for the Indians might be denied. All these things might be done, and the government at Washington would still live. But how?

There is no popular demand for economies of this character. The people are not groaning under the burden of taxation for the support of the government. They want some relief from the excessive cost of living, but they do not for a moment attribute their troubles on that score to the size of the annual appropriations. For every voice raised for lower budgets scores are heard for larger allotments of federal funds for this, that and the other object in which neighborhoods, states and sections are interested.

When the democratic party takes charge in the House it will find the way of the economy a hard one to travel. It may succeed in trimming off a few millions from the bills, but the net savings will be pleasure compared with the needs, the unmistakable requirements of the government. It will do well to proceed on the theory that the appropriations are in fact measure representative of the country's necessities and obligations and not try for a record which cannot stand analysis.

Personal sentiment compels Mr. Carnegie to disregard frankly the interests of the armor plate department of the steel trust.

Col. Roosevelt seems inclined to regard some of his policies with suspicion as having been too long in cold storage.

Again it is proper to arise and remark that the Japanese are a wonderful little people.

President Diaz is not sick; only worried.

Mr. Bryan's Reservation.

"Are you going to marry Mr. Smith?" "I am not."

In a fortnight invitations to the wedding were issued, and the young woman's friends taxed her mildly with falsehood.

"I answered your question," replied the young woman. "You asked me if I was going to marry Mr. Smith. The woman does not marry the man. Mr. Smith is going to marry me. See? I told you the truth."

Everywhere Mr. Bryan goes he is asked if he is a candidate for the presidency, and he answers he is not. At Boston the other day he added a word to the usual reply by saying that while not a candidate he was under no obligations to be so.

That insures him against the charge of misrepresentation if he is again nominated. He is not seeking the nomination, but if the nomination seeks him, why that will be another matter. He will not be under obligations to run away. And of course he will not run away.

As The Star has several times pointed out recently, Mr. Bryan, for all his hard luck as a candidate, keeps a strong hold on his friends and on the ear of the public. At Chicago the other night the attendance was so large people literally fought for places, and the police had to be called in to restore order. Whether appearing as editorials in his newspaper, or in interviews while he is on the wing, his views about politics and politicians are widely copied. The people want to know where he stands about the changing aspect of things. And he leaves nobody in the dark.

Nothing today seems more unlikely than that the presidential nomination will seek Mr. Bryan next year. His three unsuccessful attempts to reach the White House confront him, and his party has the pick now of several very attractive men with recent local successes to their credit. It is a different situation from that of 1896, when the Chicago convention showed Tom, Dick and Harry struggling for supremacy. A different situation from that of 1900, when Mr. Bryan had no opposition in the convention. A different situation from that of 1904, when Wall street was able to nominate Judge Parker. A different situation from 1908, when the democrats turned to Mr. Bryan again in a spirit of desperation.

And yet the general situation is so confused, everything may be changed by convention time next year and Mr. Bryan called to lead again. Politics is in a fluid state on both sides the line. Republicans and democrats alike are rubbing their chins and studying the ceiling. Many have not made up their minds what to do. Mr. Bryan has broken some records. He may break another, and make a fourth race for the presidency. He would like to do so, and could be drafted with ease. There is no doubt about that.

The energy displayed by a number of Mexicans can only be accounted for in the minds of some observers on the theory of foreign influence.

The railways have too much business to look after to devote their entire attention to a controversy with the interstate commerce commission.

There was a time when the idea of organizing a new party did not seem worth considering unless it originated in Kansas.

Some experts fear the Southern California peninsula has as many possibilities of trouble as a vermin farm appendix.

March never passes without a reminder that it is not a reliable month for inauguration purposes.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Getting the Worst of It.

"Bliggins isn't very lucky in driving bargains."

"No. He says he can't even change his own mind without getting the worst of the deal."

A Peace Theory.

Peace is the hope of all good men. Yet, if some sages speak right, You're not secure in peace save when You prove you're not afraid to fight.

Prudence.

"I suppose you are going to say exactly what you think in the next Congress?"

"Yes," replied the cautious statesman; "but I'm going to go slow about making up my mind as to exactly what I think."

A Mystification.

"I don't see why these classic dances are so fashionable," said the society editor.

"They are very artistic."

"Perhaps. But there is so little chance to describe what the people who give them wear."

Doing His Share.

"I suppose," said the heiress' father, "you have assured my daughter that you will grant her every wish."

"No," replied Baron Fucash; "I will not misrepresent my financial resources. But I will do my best to be of service."

"In what way?"

"I will help her to wish."

Economy.

There is risin' indignation down to Pollock on the Crick.

The speeches we have made would fill a volume two feet thick.

They've spent a billion dollars an' some millions more than that.

An' what did Pollock get, when they was passin' 'round the hat?

There's big improvements goin' on throughout the world, they say.

But we haven't seen a sign of somethin' doin' our way.

Excep' with Eazy Jones; he held an office, mighty small.

But they served a notice on him. Now he's got no job at all.

Now, Eazy was a faithful chap, a workin' with a will;

I reckon Uncle Sam will miss his em' an' skill.

Most people would have thought it was a case of downright cheek.

To ask for service like this at fifteen plunks per week.

But when that big expense account had filled us with surprise

We had to own right up. The country must economize.

And yet we were to see how retrenchment's gettin' very fur

By simply holdin' out on poor old Eazy's fifteen per.

Proving Wills Before Death.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Massachusetts legislature has under consideration a bill providing that any will or codicil may, if the one making it chooses, be proved during his life or her lifetime.

In view of the many attempts that are made to change such instruments after death, this measure seems to be one that demands marked consideration. Too often the wishes of those leaving property for specific purposes have been broken aside through legal procedure, in many cases mere technicalities alone being sufficient to render a will void.

A law such as the one proposed would do away with much of these bickerings that are of the physical nature in the civil courts. It would enable a testator to prove that he is of sound mind and subject to no undue influence, facts which he must now easily determine during life than after death. There is little doubt that it would do away with the "will-breaking" practice to a great extent, and one who has property to leave would have every reasonable assurance that his wishes in the matter of its disposal were bound to be respected.

A National Memorial.

From the Buffalo Commercial.

One good thing to the credit of the late Congress is the Lincoln national memorial bill, which provides for a monument to the great war President in the city of Washington, the cost not to exceed \$5,000,000, of which \$500,000 is immediately available for preliminary work. Thus the way is at last opened for the ending of a practical of long standing. Various projects have been suggested, and the commission may be trusted to act wisely in making a decision. It held its first meeting at the White House Saturday, and resolved to refer to the new fine arts commission on the subject. The commission for report and recommendations, the whole question of proper location and design for the memorial. It is an excellent idea, bringing this body into active co-operation with the work from the start.

Be Careful!

From the Portland Oregonian.

Pneumonia, unlike consumption, the other arch enemy of human life, finds in the physically strong its ready victims. There is a word of caution in this fact to men who, rejoicing in bodily strength, take risks upon their health that are not sanctioned by prudence.

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of
Housewives

send their family wash to the

Model Laundry

because they know it will come home on time and come home white and neatly done.

Phone us and we will send our wagon.

By the Pound
6 CentsWash for Family of
3 Costs About 50c.

Here's a sample—3 shirt waists, 3 underwear (suits), 10 handkerchiefs, 5 pairs hose, 2 sheets, 2 pillow cases, 4 towels, 6 napkins, 2 tablecloths, 6 or 8 pieces of children's wear.

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woman should select the Perfume
that precisely
suits her.LUNE de MIEL
(HONEYMOON)

our deliciously sweet, new perfume, has immediately reached a high place in the estimation of fastidious people on both sides of the Atlantic.

Try it today.

Sold by dealers of prominence.

Send 10c and your favorite dealer's name for sample of BATH-DORA, Bismarck bottle of LUNE DE MIEL, and our book, "The Bath Luxurious."

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Don't Persecute
your Bowels

Cut out cathartics and purgatives. They are brutal—harsh—unnecessary. Try

CARTER'S LITTLE
LIVER PILLS

Purely vegetable. Act gently on the liver, eliminate bile and soothe the delicate membranes of the bowels.

Small Pills. Small Dose. Small Price.

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Woodward & Lothrop

New York—WASHINGTON—Paris.

Easter Cards, Booklets and Novelties—Main Floor, G Street.

To Strangers and Visitors to Washington.

With the coming of spring, Washington beautiful rightfully becomes the Mecca of thousands. Personally conducted tours from the north, east and west—tourists from every section, thousands brought here for various reasons—to all such we repeat, let us be your host for as long time as you may spare.

Comfortable resting rooms, telegraph and telephone facilities, a most agreeable cafe—all are features of our hospitality, not to mention some timely merchandise events of more than ordinary interest come whenever you may.

Our Special Sale of Sterling Silver Flat Ware.

WE were fortunate in securing a large lot of Sterling Silver Flat Ware at a great concession from a prominent manufacturer who was effecting a clearance of his surplus stock, and which we placed on sale this morning at half and less than half regular prices.

This sale affords an excellent opportunity to secure Solid (sterling) Silver for the home, as well as for wedding and anniversary gifts, at about the price of good plated ware. All the pieces included in the wide assortments are highly commendable in their refined character and practicability.

Tea Spoons, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Olive Forks, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Oyster Forks, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Butter Picks, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Butter Spreaders, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Food Pushers, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Mustard Spoons, 50c each. Value, \$1.00.
Bouillon Spoons, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Bonbon Spoons, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Horse Radish Spoons, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Ice Cream Spoons, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.

Orange Spoons, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Meat Forks, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Children's Forks, 65c each. Value, \$1.25.
Cheese Gouges, \$1.00 each. Values, \$2.00 and \$2.25.
Butter Knives, \$1.00 each. Values, \$2.00 and \$2.25.
Children's Knives, \$1.00 each. Value, \$2.00.
Ladies, \$1.35 each. Value, \$3.00.
Lettuce Forks, \$1.45 each. Value, \$3.00.
Berry Spoons, \$1.95 each. Value, \$3.50.
Ladies, \$1.95 each. Value, \$3.50.
Fish Forks, \$1.95 each. Value, \$3.50.
Fish Knives, \$2.45 each. Value, \$4.00.

Main floor, Eleventh st.

Dainty Dressing Sacques and Negliges
In New and Bewitching Effects.

IT is impossible to convey but a slight idea of the richness and beauty of these dainty house garments. Exquisite conceits in delightful profusion, fashioned of China silks, dainty French organdies, beautiful crepe de chine, pretty marquisesettes, practical dotted swisses, attractive all-over embroideries, sheer nainsooks and other becoming materials.

Charming, every one of them, and in just the lovely colorings that women of discriminating taste will want and select.

Dressing Sacques of French organdies, marquisesettes, dotted swisses, silk mulls and fine lawns, in white and delicate colors, variously trimmed with pretty laces and ribbons, in several becoming styles. Also French handmade and hand-embroidered.

\$3.75 to \$25.00 each.

China Silk Dressing Sacques, in white, black, lavender, light blue and pink, made in an assortment of styles; some accordion-plaited; others daintily trimmed with fluffy laces and ribbons.

\$5.00 to \$15.00 each.

Third floor, Eleventh st.

Dainty Belongings for Little Folks.

OUR Infants' Department is one of the most delightful of our shops. Distinctive in its character, irresistible in its entirety, it invites inspection.

Here may be found charming garments, newly arrived from abroad—the products of the most skillful needlewomen in Paris, as well as the daintiest of creations from our own manufacturers.

Charming wearables for indoor wear and out—sweet belongings for babies, together with every toilet requisite and accessory for infants' wardrobes. Separate garments or complete layettes may be chosen, whose daintiness in style and finish are characteristic of this department.

The New Coats and Hats Claim Particular Attention.

Children's Coats and Reefers of silk, satin, serge, mohair and diagonal and basket weaves, richly trimmed with Persian and foulard silks, pique and hand-embroidered linen; also shepherd plaids and plain dark blue serge ornamented with buttons. A beautiful model is of champagne serge, lined with brown figured foulard and finished with deep sailor collar and cuffs.

Third floor, Eleventh st.

Children's Bewitching Hats, of milan, leghorn and other fine fancy straws, in the new Tyrolean shape and the many dainty and attractive mushroom effects, with variously turned and drooping brims, simply and effectively trimmed with soft shirred silks, rich velvets, broad satin ribbons and dainty flowers and fruit. A bewildering assortment from which to make selection.

The New Spring Corsets.

Parame, Lily of France, Madame Irene, Florida.

TODAY we call especial attention to the "Florida," which we are showing in the various new models—close fitting around hips, giving the desired straight lines and short-waisted effect.